

1969


**ATTACK SQUADRON SEVENTY TWO**

**FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501**

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12 MAR 1970

From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron SEVENTY-TWO  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05 D2)  
Subj: Command History, Calendar Year 1969; forwarding of  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A  
Encl: (1) Chronology of Events  
(2) Narrative  
(3) Squadron Mission  
(4) Squadron Decal  
(5) Biography and Photo of Commanding Officer  
(6) Roster of Officers Assigned

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.

  
D. B. YOUNG, JR.

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP-09 B9)  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

### CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1-7 JAN 69           Moored at the Naval Station Mayport, Florida onboard USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38) attached to Carrier Air Wing EIGHT.

8-17 JAN 69           Transiting the Atlantic, enroute to the Mediterranean.

18 JAN to  
3 FEB 69            Operating in the Mediterranean Sea, as a member of Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT

4-10 FEB 69           Anchored off Barcelona, Spain. Shore leave and liberty for all hands.

11-17 FEB 69          Operating in the Mediterranean Sea. VA-72 participated in "OPERATION POOP DECK".

18-26 FEB 69          Anchored off Cannes, France for shore leave and liberty on the French Riviera.

26 FEB to  
6 MAR 69            Operating in the Mediterranean Sea. The Blue Hawks participated in National Week Exercise.

7-16 MAR 69           Anchored off Naples, Italy.

17-24 MAR 69          Routine operational flying and participation in Operation "QUICK DRAW", a joint United States-Italian Armed Forces Exercise.

25-31 MAR 69          Anchored off Athens, Greece.

1-2 APR 69            VA-72 based aboard USS SHANGRI-LA, operating in the Mediterranean Sea as a member of Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT. VA-72 participating in RIMEX 2-69 and successfully fired four AQM-37 target missiles.

3-11 APR 69           CDR R. A. PHILLIPS relieved by CDR S. E. LATIMER, JR., as Commanding Officer Attack Squadron SEVENTY-TWO. USS SHANGRI-LA anchored off Valletta, Malta. Liberty for all hands.

12-16 APR 69          At sea and operating daily. On 15 April VA-72 participated in CRAE Exercise unloading 32 tons of live ordnance on AVGO NISI target.

17-19 APR 69          Fleet anchorage at Soudha Bay, Crete.

20-30 APR 69          At sea operations, participating in the widely publicized NATO Exercise "OPERATION DAWN PATROL".

Enclosure (1)

1 MAY 69	Enroute to Naples, Italy.
2-6 MAY 69	Anchored off Naples, Italy.
7-11 MAY 69	Mini National Week.
12-18 MAY 69	SHANG revisits Barcelona, Spain.
19-24 MAY 69	Operation National Week III.
25 MAY 69	Enroute Valletta, Malta.
26 MAY - 1 JUN 69	Revisit Malta.
2-8 JUN 69	Air Wing EIGHT participated in Operation "OLYMPIC EXPRESS" jointly with Greek Forces. VA-72 designated VMA-72 for C.A.S. work.
9-16 JUN 69	Revisited Athens, Greece.
17-19 JUN 69	Departed Athens and conducted flight operations.
20-21 JUN 69	VA-72 successfully fired four more AQM-37 target missiles while operating south of Malta.
22-25 JUN 69	Conducted daily flight operations.
26-30 JUN 69	Anchored at Cannes, France for a revisit of the French Riviera and the last port of call before outchop.
1-6 JUL 69	Anchored Cannes, France aboard USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38).
7-8 JUL 69	Daily flight operations.
9-12 JUL 69	VA-72 participating in Operation POOPDECK.
13-15 JUL 69	Fleet Anchorage at Porto Scoudo, Sardinia
16 JUL 69	Daily flight operations.
17 JUL 69	Underway for Rota, Spain.
18 JUL 69	Anchor Rota, Spain.
19 JUL 69	USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38) relieved by USS SARATOGA (CVA-62), underway for NAVSTA Mayport.
20-28 JUL 69	Transiting the Atlantic, enroute to NAVSTA Mayport, Florida.
29 JUL 69	Arrive Mayport, Florida, Attack Squadron SEVENTY- TWO debarked USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38), and

29 JUL 69                   proceeded to NAS Cecil Field, Florida after a  
(Cont'd)                   Mediterranean Deployment that began on  
                              7 January 1969.

30 JUL -                   VA-72 temporarily based ashore NAS Cecil Field,  
21 SEP 69                   Florida. During this time the squadron conducted  
                              routine flight operations in the local flying  
                              area and transferred the last A-4B on 19 SEP 69  
                              in preparation for transition to the A-7.

22 SEP -                   Squadron began transition to the A-7 aircraft  
16 OCT 69                   under the supervision of VA-174.

17 OCT 69                   CDR S. E. LATIMER, JR., USN, was relieved as  
                              Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron SEVENTY-  
                              TWO by CDR D. B. YOUNG, JR., USN.

18 OCT -                     
31 DEC 69                   VA-72 continued transition to the A-7B Corsair  
                              II Aircraft at VA-174.

## NARRATIVE

The beginning of 1969 found the Blue Hawks under the command of Commander Robert A. PHILLIPS, based aboard the USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38) moored at the Naval Station in Mayport, Florida. The first week of the new year was spent preparing for the coming Mediterranean deployment.

On 7 January 1969 VA-72 departed CONUS as a member of Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT based aboard the SHANGRI-LA.

After an uneventful, but sometimes rough crossing, the Rock of Gibraltar was sighted on 17 January 1969. At this time the SHANGRI-LA became a member of the SIXTH Fleet.

On 22 January the ship anchored at Taranto, Italy for one day. This anchorage punctuated an otherwise busy and active at sea period. VA-72 participated in routine flight operations conducted in the Mediterranean Sea. For many of the squadron's pilots this was their first opportunity to gain experience in operational flying.

On 3 February the SHANGRI-LA anchored off Barcelona, Spain for its first taste of Mediterranean liberty in 1969. Upon departing Barcelona on 10 February, VA-72 participated with Carrier Air Wing EIGHT in a joint United States - Spanish military exercise named "Operation POOP DECK". This exercise was followed by more routine operational flying in the Mediterranean Sea.

On 17 February the SHANGRI-LA anchored off Cannes, France. All hands took advantage of the liberty offered on the French Riviera.

On 27 February the ship was underway once more and the Blue Hawks contributed their share to the exercise NATIONAL WEEK held during this at sea period.

On 7 March the USS SHANGRI-LA anchored off Naples, Italy. The Navy Exchange was a welcome sight to all hands and shopping sprees were the order of the day. The Flamingo Club at the Bagnoli Complex was utilized for an all hands party. The food was outstanding as was the entertainment, and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

Early on 17 March the ship was underway and VA-72 again participated in flight operations in the Mediterranean Sea.

As a member of Carrier Air Wing EIGHT the Blue Hawks contributed to Operation QUICK DRAW, a joint United States - Italian military exercise.

On 24 March the SHANGRI-LA anchored off Athens, Greece. Here in the "Birthplace of Civilization" the Blue Hawks of VA-72 spent the remainder of the month of March.

During these three months of 1969, the Blue Hawks have kept pace with their sister squadrons and have maintained their aging A-4B's in an excellent manner.

On 2 April, VA-72 successfully fired four AQM-37 target drones, later finishing the cruise with eight successful firings in nine attempts. These were the first successful firings by any fleet squadron, and allowed the first launch of the TALOS Guided Missile in the Mediterranean.

The SHANG anchored off Valletta, Malta on 3 April for an eight day visit bringing with her the typical "carrier weather" cancelling boating for five days. The sixth day brought fair weather and a new skipper. Commander R. A. PHILLIPS, USN, was relieved by Commander S. E. LATIMER, JR., USN, as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron SEVENTY-TWO on 10 April.

On 12 April SHANGRI-LA put to sea again. 15 April VA-72 participated in C.R.A.E., an exercise to evaluate the carrier's ability to load aircraft with conventional ordnance and the air wing's ability to deliver it on target. VA-72 dropped 32 tons, over one third of the total tonnage delivered.

On 17 April SHANGRI-LA anchored at Soudha Bay, Crete for a two day anchorage. VA-72 went ashore "en masse" for an all hands party and a great time was had by all.

On 20 April SHANGRI-LA put to sea for ten days participating in the widely publicized NATO operation "DAWN PATROL". During this exercise the Sixth Fleet was under close surveillance by Soviet destroyers as well as Russian built Badger bombers.

On 2 May SHANGRI-LA dropped anchor at Naples, Italy for the second visit. Mess Dress was the order of the day for the officers of Attack Squadron SEVENTY-TWO that were "dining in". Five courses plus wine provided the "BLUEHAWKS" with an event that would not soon be forgotten.

7 May once again found the SHANG at sea for five days conducting daily flight operations.

On 12 May SHANGRI-LA revisited Barcelona, Spain for six days.

On 19 May Air Wing EIGHT began operation National Week III.

On 26 May VA-72 revisited the Island of Malta. This time they found the weather much more inviting.

2 June began operation "OLYMPIC EXPRESS". Working in conjunction with Greek Amphibious Forces, VA-72 was temporarily redesignated VMA-72 and had a new role of close air support.

On 9 June the SHANG visited Athens, Greece for the second time.

On 20 June while operating at sea VA-72 successfully fired four AQM-37 target missiles.

26 June the SHANGRI-LA dropped anchor at Cannes, France. The French Riviera once again proved to be outstanding liberty for all hands.

On 7 July the SHANG, redesignated CVS-38, was underway and again conducting flight operations in the Mediterranean Sea. On 9 July through 12 July the Blue Hawks participated in operation "POOPDECK", the last joint exercise of the current Mediterranean deployment.

On 14 July, while in anchorage at Porto Scudo, Sardinia, VA-72 evaluated the LPA-1 Life Vest. The tests were conducted by pilots wearing the LPA-1 in a torso hang, in the water, and during a HELLO pickup. Approach magazine later published the results in their JAN 1970 issue, along with photographs of the tests.

On 16 and 17 July SHANGRI-LA was underway for Rota, Spain and on 19 July USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38) was relieved by USS SARATOGA (CVA-62). That same day the SHANG was underway for Mayport, Florida. The next eight days were spent transiting the Atlantic and on 29 July the USS SHANGRI-LA moored at Naval Station, Mayport, Florida after a seven month Mediterranean deployment. VA-72 debarked SHANGRI-LA on the same day and proceeded to NAS Cecil Field, Florida.

For the period of 30 July to 21 September, VA-72 was temporarily based ashore at NAS Cecil Field conducting routine flight operations and preparing for transition to the A-7 Corsair II.

On 19 September LCDR (b) (6) and LTJG (b) (6), of VA-72, flew the A-4B for the last time by a fleet squadron.

VA-72 transferred all aircraft and on 22 September detached from Carrier Air Wing EIGHT and became a member of Replacement Carrier Air Wing FOUR. VA-72 began transitioning to the new A-7B Corsair II under the professional guidance of the VA-174 Hell Razors.

On 17 October 1969, Commander S. E. LATIMER, JR., USN, was relieved as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron SEVENTY-TWO by Commander D. B. YOUNG, JR., USN. Under the helm of our new skipper, VA-72 completed the remainder of 1969 transitioning to the A-7B.



### SQUADRON MISSION

To conduct offensive air to surface operations with conventional and nuclear weapons, within the capabilities of the aircraft assigned.

#### Tasks Assigned:

1. To demolish enemy installations including aircraft and submarines at their bases.
2. To destroy enemy naval units and shipping.
3. To support amphibious and/or land combat operations.
4. To provide for tactical delivery of guided missiles as directed.
5. To conduct target reconnaissance flights in support of strikes against enemy installations.
6. To maintain a capacity for either receiving or providing air refueling day and night.
7. To conduct offensive aerial mine laying as directed.
8. To maintain a high proficiency in navigation, target acquisition, and weapons delivery accuracy at maximum combat radius.

COMMANDER DAVID B. YOUNG, Jr., USN

Commander David Bryan YOUNG, Jr., was born in (b) (6) the son of the late Captain David B. YOUNG, USN, and Mrs. Young. He attended elementary and high schools in California, Virginia, and Maryland and entered the U. S. Naval Academy in 1950 after attending San Diego State College. Upon graduation from the Naval Academy with the class of 1953 Commander YOUNG was commissioned an Ensign USN and remained on duty at the Academy in the Department of Physical Training until entering flight training in the Fall of 1953.

Upon receiving his wings in January 1955, Commander YOUNG reported to Fighter Squadron THIRTY-TWO home-based at NAS Cecil Field for a 44 month sea tour. During this tour VF-32 deployed to the Sixth Fleet aboard USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14) as the Navy's first F9F-8 "Cougar" squadron. In 1957 VF-32 became the first squadron to receive the F8U-1 "Crusader" and in 1958 deployed again to the Mediterranean aboard USS SARATOGA (CVA-60).

In November 1958 Commander YOUNG was ordered to Naples, Italy and spent a three year tour as Naval Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe. In October of 1961 he returned to NAS Cecil Field for a two year tour as a flight instructor in Attack Squadron FORTY-FOUR. After attending CIC School in Glynnco, Georgia, Commander YOUNG reported aboard USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14), home-ported in San Diego, as Assistant Air Operations Officer. During 1964-66 TICONDEROGA participated in two combat deployments to Southeast Asia.

After completing transitional training in Attack Squadron 125 Commander YOUNG reported to Attack Squadron NINETY-THREE at NAS Lemore in September 1966 where he served as Administrative Officer and Executive Officer. In January 1967, VA-93 flying the Douglass A4E Skyhawk, deployed to Southeast Asia for a six month combat tour in the Tonkin Gulf operating from USS HANCOCK (CVA-19). In January 1968 Commander YOUNG detached from VA-93 and following refresher carrier qualifications in VA-44 he reported to Attack Squadron SEVENTY-TWO as Executive Officer while the squadron was deployed to the Sixth Fleet aboard USS F. D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). In January 1969 VA-72 again deployed to the Mediterranean on USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38) for a seven month cruise. In September 1969 VA72, the first fleet squadron to operate the Douglas A-4 aircraft, turned in its venerable A4B's and commenced transition to the A7B "Corsair-2" at NAS Cecil Field.

Commander YOUNG has been awarded the Air Medal (7), the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" (2), the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation with Combat "V", and various campaign and service medals.

Commander YOUNG is the father of four children, (b) (6)  
(b) (6) . He is married to the former  
(b) (6) or (b) (6).

ROSTER OF OFFICERS ASSIGNED DECEMBER 1969

CDR D. B. YOUNG, JR.

CDR (b) (6)

LCDR (b) (6)

LCDR

LCDR

LT (b) (6)

LT

LT

LT

LT

LT

LT

LT

LT

LTJG (b) (6)

LTJG

LTJG

WO1 (b) (6)

Enclosure (6)



ENCLOSURE (4)

